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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:	:
Takimoto et al.	:
International Application	: Group Art Unit: N/A
No. PCT/JP2004/001214	:
International Filing Date:	: Examiner: Not Yet
February 5, 2004	: Assigned
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS	:
AND METHOD, AND PROGRAM	:

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Preliminary to initiation of the prosecution of the above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.